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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

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1. In Belgrade rumors about the concentration of Soviet troops along the Hungaro-Yugoslav and Bulgaro-Yugoslav frontiers have created great unrest. Many families have taken steps to find living quarters in outlying villages in Serbia, while others who do not have the means have prepared their possessions for flight.

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2. Everywhere one hears nothing but talk of war. With great circumspection people listen clandestinely to Radio Moscow and Satellite broadcasts in Serbo-Croat. Yugoslav Communists and Government functionaries have great fear of the Soviets, whereas others feel it would free them from anarchy, and they reason that the Soviet system could hardly be worse than that of Tito. The people anticipate an aggressive move on the part of the Bulgarians and Hungarians.

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3. In February, many people from all levels of society were called in by the UDB district office for interrogation on charges of creating war panic. Some of these were interned for a few days, while others were released immediately with the understanding that they would be subjected to six months of confinement if they once again publicly discussed the question of war or high prices.

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4. Training courses for civil defense against air raids and Red Cross classes on what must be done in case of bombardment are being held throughout Yugoslavia. The civil defense air raid courses are attended exclusively by old men who are unsuited for any other kind of service. The Red Cross courses are attended by women only.

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5. Apprehension and fear of a new conflict are more marked in Belgrade and Zagreb than in Ljubljana. A lack of confidence and some wavering has been noticeable among many top level officials of the Party and Government.

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who seem worried about the future. Many of them have sought to put some money aside in Yugoslavia or abroad in preparation for any eventuality. The general impulse is to flee the country, but among the Tito Communists many hesitate to do so, wondering how the West would receive them.

6. Fear of the Soviets is universal. People point out how they were treated when "liberated" by the Soviets and speculate on what would happen if the Soviets came as occupiers. All those who are not fundamentally compromised through association with Tito are doing their utmost to detach themselves from the regime. They believe the Soviets will take drastic measures against the Titoists but will not molest the neutral element. The Yugoslavs will fight with conviction against the Soviets if the Anglo-Americans join them, but they will not fight alone for Tito.

7. All hope is based on the Anglo-Americans. It is desired that they intervene in Yugoslavia and, in the event of disaster, that they open the frontiers to the West and allow the people to escape from the Soviet hordes.

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In better informed Party and business circles it is claimed that, in the event of a Soviet or Satellite attack, Serbia and Croatia would be occupied immediately, whereas Slovenia would mark the line of defense of the United Nations' Forces, comparable to South Korea.

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8. Great quantities of meat are being sent to the canning factories for future Army consumption. This explains the scarcity of meat on the open market. The highest Government offices have received orders to make preparations to transfer or burn their files in case of war.

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9. Gold and other valuables were shipped from Belgrade to Slovenia in February. The entire shipment came to approximately twenty or thirty thousand kilograms.

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10. From 10 to 15 February, a considerable number of Army officers and non-commissioned officers, about thirty railroad cars full, were taken from Macedonia to Slovenia to be given a special (unspecified) type of military training.
11. Anti-air raid drills are being staged throughout the country, and a general alarm will be held on 25 February. It is frequently mentioned at Party and public meetings that it would be nothing unusual for Yugoslavia to be attacked within a short time. Instructions are being given on how to equip air raid shelters and on the preparation of homes in view of bombardments.
12. Both inside and outside Party circles there is much talk of placing arms in the hands of the people, i.e., both men and women members of the Party and/or those devoted to the regime. Party members claim that they will fight the Soviets with everything they have but only on the grounds that the Soviets attack Yugoslavia. They assert that it would be erroneous to assume that they are considering discarding Communism and going over to the Anglo-Americans.*

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13. The country is in a situation of ambivalence. The people fear war, and yet they want war to bring about any change from their current misery. It is generally believed that, in case of war, Yugoslavia would go down to defeat in less time than in 1941 because most Yugoslavs do not want to fight under the Red Star for anyone. For this reason, any attack levelled at them while under the banner of the present regime will result in a national catastrophe for Yugoslavia.

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14. In the event of a Soviet attack, the Yugoslav Army will disintegrate faster than it did in the last war. Tito's regime remains in power today only through the pressure wielded by police and Army officers, who form the backbone of the reliable cadres out of gratitude for their rise from anonymity to influential posts. But even many from this element would turn on Tito if the opportunity presented itself. Through terrorization, disciplinary and oppressive measures, the people are kept in line. As a whole, they are discontent, desperate and brimming with hatred for the regime, and their antagonism lies like powder under a dust ready to explode with the first spark.

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15. Cominformists have penetrated Army ranks in numbers and also have entered the administrative field, much to the consternation of the UDB. These forces are not to be underestimated as fighters, particularly if openly supported by the Soviets or any pro-Cominform country.

Comment:

an attack would result in complete Yugoslav collapse, because of the general discontent and because no one believes in the moral or political right to leadership of the Tito regime. There are many Cominformists in the ranks of the Yugoslav Communist Party, who according to their most recent instructions, are to remain passive until war breaks out.

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